

In the Wake of Pink Lady

By Atom Mudman Bezecny



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This report was circulated among White House intelligence staff in a version of the Spring of 2025. It was forwarded to me by Mr. Hormidas Peath, one of the “little birdies” who I keep stationed around the Multiverse for the purposes of information-gathering. My birdies have proven invaluable in relaying me journalistic accounts of events in parallel universes, and this was no exception. When I receive particularly interesting Multiversal info, I pass it on to Ms. Atom Beżecny (the publisher of this volume), who packages it as fiction and sells it on the open market, paying me a 30% finder’s fee out of all royalties. It has proven to be a relatively stable way of living.

Hormidas Peath is a former high-ranking member of the United States government in the 21st Century of our Earth, and he often blends in on other Earths by taking the place of his counterparts there, who usually occupy similar positions. His reports never fail to give me rich insight into many of the geopolitical intricacies of other Earths. This report is one of several I wish to publish over the next several months in the hopes of illustrating numerous potentialities our timeline could have crossed into had circumstances differed but slightly. My failure to continue publication can only be considered a sign of outside interference—the problem with Multiversal travel is that it opens one up to a certain observer effect, wherein powerful forces within particularly hazardous or demonic universes become aware of their being watched. Their wrath is commonly a thing of fear.

The premise of this report and the potential threat it presents, shall become clear as Mr. Peath’s report develops.

- Ernest Knaust

IN THE WAKE OF PINK LADY
A Report on the Findings of the Institute for *Pink Lady*
International Relations
(05/16/2025)

The purpose of this document is to create a complete timeline of the events that have led to the current diplomatic tensions between the United States of America and the nation of Japan. This report was shaped by over five years of data analysis conducted by the FBI, the CIA, and various government think tanks, including the Institute for *Pink Lady* International Relations, which was founded specifically for the purpose of untangling the cultural and sociopolitical complexities surrounding the current relationship between the U.S. and Japan. This research is presented with the hopes of averting escalation of conflict between the U.S. and Japan, though we are forced ultimately to conclude that it is already too late to avert the kind of open warfare which has been unseen between the two nations since the Second World War.

Pink Lady and Jeff is an NBC TV series which first began airing in March 1980. The series is hosted by American comedian/actor Jeff Altmann (originally Jeff Altman) and the Japanese pop duo Pink Lady (ピンク・レディー, Pinku Redī), made up of Mie (Mitsuyo Nemoto) and Kei (Keiko Masuda). The show is an example of the variety show format, featuring a combination of stand-up comedy, sketch comedy, and musical revue. The show is thematically loose, but tends to skewer general aspects of American culture, taking aim at political figures, shady salesmen, televangelists, and other such parties. The show has been running for forty-five consecutive seasons, and has only once dipped out of the #1 spot in audience Nielsen polls that entire time past its third season. It is doubtlessly the most commercially successful TV show in American history, if not the history of the world.

Despite generally focusing on parodies of American culture, *Pink Lady and Jeff* has also made its stock-and-trade in making fun of the differences between Japanese and American culture. Some of these jokes have been decried by some American critics, especially

Japanese-Americans, as being offensive and racist, but the general consensus among modern American audiences is that the jokes are good simply by merit of being jokes from *Pink Lady and Jeff*. Indeed, the series has become so popular that it is considered at present to be a staple of American culture, much like Superman or Elvis Presley, and as such it has become contentious to criticize the show in public circles. Journalists and activists across the country have received death threats and assassination attempts for speaking out against its broadcast. In a Gallup poll conducted in 2022, 94% of Americans said they would rather face a major global war than the cancellation of *Pink Lady and Jeff*. NBC and their affiliated networks have reported that the revenue that comes from the franchise constitutes an unheard-of 47% of their annual budget on average. It is therefore presently difficult if not impossible to reduce the American population's negative and stereotypical view of Japan without inflicting significant damage to the cultural, civil, and economic fabric of the United States. And yet, removing *Pink Lady and Jeff* from the airwaves is the only thing that will placate Japan. The Japanese government is disturbed to find anti-Japanese sentiment portrayed so prominently within America's most popular media franchise, and that, coupled with many aggravating circumstances, has influenced their aggressive posture towards the U.S.

At the conclusion of our findings, we will present our potential solutions to the growing crisis. These solutions have been determined to be the most viable of all those the Institute generated. It must be warned that these solutions will likely be seen by many as ethically inadequate.

- H. P.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS
PERTAINING TO THE NBC TELEVISION
PRODUCTION
PINK LADY AND JEFF (1980-present)**

Oct. 2, 1892 – Birth of Miklos Sangre in Ioannina, Greece.

~**1903** – The Sangre family immigrates to Germany.

Feb. 5, 1906 – Birth of Max Heinrich von Altermann in Berlin, Germany. His mother, Magda, is the sister of Manolis Sangre, Miklos Sangre's father.

Jan. 9, 1913 – Birth of Richard Nixon in Yorba Linda, California.

Jan. 11, 1915 – Birth of Lila Sangre, Miklos' sister, in Berlin, Germany.

Jul. 30, 1929 – Birth of Cydus Yolas ("Sid Krofft") in Montreal, Quebec.

1934-1935 – Miklos Sangre joins the Nazi Party. Shortly thereafter, his sister Lila marries their cousin, Max von Altermann, who also joins the Party. Von Altermann pledges to use his medical knowledge to the benefit of the Third Reich; however, he is also intrigued by Joseph Goebbels' theories on the use of propaganda to create a compliant society.

Von Altermann will spend the next several years studying racism in the United States—from the beginning, the Nazis have been influenced by American conservatives, eugenicists, and antisemites, and Von Altermann in particular makes himself an expert on the role of mass entertainment in dividing races across society. Specifically, he studies the long tradition of American blackface minstrelsy, which was one of the most commercially successful forms of cultural expression in the U.S. from the early 19th Century to the first decades of the 20th. Von Altermann seeks to find a way

to make modern American theater and film into tools of fascism as well as racism.

Feb. 2, 1934 – Birth of Art Fisher in Brooklyn, New York.

Apr. 9, 1937 – Birth of Moshopopoulos Yolas (“Marty Krofft”) in Montreal, Quebec.

Sept. 13, 1937 – Birth of Fred Silverman in Queens, New York.

Early 1940s – A teenage Sid Krofft starts working as a puppeteer. His brother Marty will join him on this path in the later part of the decade.

Aug. 1940 – Miklos Sangre is killed by American agents in Cuba during an attempt to spy on America’s War readiness. Because America is not yet part of the War, this event is covered up by the U.S. government.

May 1941 – As an experiment in propaganda, Von Altermann has Nazi agents infiltrate the American “Poverty Row” film studio Monogram Pictures and arrange for them to make a horror B-movie, *King of the Zombies*, based very loosely off the events surrounding the final mission of Miklos Sangre. Von Altermann sees to it that the script includes demeaning “comic” depictions of African-Americans—this inclusion is not questioned by the studio, as such humor is still common in American media at the time. Von Altermann comes to believe that white Americans possess limitless potential as agents of racism. Though he primarily dedicates himself to his medical experiments, he also outlines a plan for using lowbrow media and popular culture to influence nations outside of Germany towards fascism. His belief that fascism can be perpetuated by such “degenerate media” as horror films and comedy theater sets him apart from propagandists like Leni Riefenstahl, who supports Hitler’s belief that only “high art” can dignify the Reich.

Dec. 7, 1941 – The United States enters World War II following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Coincidentally, Lila von Altermann

gives birth to a son on the same day—the act of giving birth kills her. Max von Altermann raises his son, Henry von Altermann, without his wife.

Mar. 1943 – Max von Altermann establishes a Nazi research compound and spy base near New Orleans. American agents discover and raid his facility and kill him when he resists arrest. Von Altermann's surviving agents smuggle his son Henry back to Germany. These same agents carry on Von Altermann's propaganda plans, arranging for their contacts at Monogram to produce a pseudo-sequel to *King of the Zombies* called *Revenge of the Zombies*, which presents Von Altermann as a fictional character. This sequel features the same demeaning Black protagonist as its predecessor.

May 8, 1945 – Germany surrenders to the Allies, ending the War in Europe. Several key Nazis are able to escape arrest or death, aided by Die Spinne (“the Spider”), an Odessa cell dedicated to smuggling Nazis through various “ratlines” to South America. The leader of Die Spinne is believed to be the mysterious “Olivier,” an SS commandant responsible for a number of war crimes. Olivier has never been definitively identified by historians—he is most commonly believed to be Hans Schellenberg (1913-19??), the brother of notorious SS officer Walter Schellenberg (1910-1952), but this remains unconfirmed.

Henry von Altmann is taken by Nazi agents to Argentina, where he is raised to become a fascist. Following Henry's father's directives, Die Spinne dispatches more agents to the United States to look for ways to infiltrate American culture, perhaps by engineering a media star.

During studies of captured Nazi intelligence files, the American government discovers that Miklos Sangre developed a bioweapon with unknown properties known as Gamma 693, which was to be deployed against the Allies by the SS's enigmatic “Death Patrol.” This weapon was never tested or used, though it is known that two shipments of samples went missing, one in the northern Sahara, and one in eastern France. The recovery of the formula for the compound is kept a secret by the U.S.

Aug. 6-9, 1945 – The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force Japan's surrender and conclude the Pacific War. Following Japan's surrender, the United States militarily occupies Japan until 1952, enacting widespread social and political reforms throughout the nation. The occupation will result in the Americanization of many aspects of Japanese culture. The presence of American troops is resisted by many wary and angry Japanese citizens.

1946 – Richard Nixon is first elected to Congress.

Aug. 13, 1951 – Birth of Jeff Altman in Syracuse, New York. His family is one of many who is logged by Die Spinne as having potential use for their propaganda project. Odessa agents will watch Jeff as he grows up.

Sept. 8, 1951 – The United States and Japan sign the Security Treaty in San Francisco, cementing a military alliance between them.

Mar. 2, 1952 – Birth of Mark Evanier in Santa Monica, California.

Apr. 28, 1952 – The U.S. occupation of Japan comes to an end as Japan's sovereignty is restored. However, via the Security Treaty, the U.S. maintains military bases throughout the Japanese archipelago on an indefinite basis. Protests by Japanese citizens against the presence of the bases continue into the early 1960s.

1953-1961 – Richard Nixon serves as Vice President to Dwight Eisenhower.

1954 – With prodding from the U.S., the Japanese government transforms the National Police Reserve into the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). At the same time, they adopt a policy of reduced militarization and stay out of the swelling nuclear arms race. The U.S. will continuously attempt to persuade Japan to fully remilitarize so as to form a harder buffer against Asian Communism, but Japan almost always limits their armed forces to the purpose of self-defense. The CIA makes arrangements among

the leftist parties of Japan to prioritize centrist candidates, so as to avert the possibility of Communism taking hold there.

Mar. 1, 1954 – During American atomic bomb tests in the Bikini Atoll, the Japanese tuna boat *Lucky Dragon 5* is contaminated with radioactive fallout, causing outrage and fear among many Japanese citizens.

1955-1957 – When the U.S. Air Force in Japan announces their plans to expand the Tachikawa Air Base into the nearby village of Sunagawa, a massive, bloody protest breaks out. The actions of the protesters are successful in convincing President Dwight Eisenhower to reduce U.S. forces in Japan by 40%.

Jan. 30, 1957 – The presence of U.S. forces in Japan falls under further criticism when an American soldier, William S. Girard, casually murders a 46-year-old Japanese mother, Naka Sakai. This incident helps contribute to President Eisenhower's decision to reduce American troops in Japan.

Sept. 2, 1957 – Birth of Keiko Masuda (“Kei”) in Shizuoka, Japan.

Mar. 9, 1958 – Birth of Mitsuyo Nemoto (“Mie”) in Shizuoka, Japan.

Jun. 19, 1960 – In response to the protests against U.S. military bases in Japan and the unfairness of the 1951 Security Treaty, President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi sign a revised Security Treaty, which places the two nations on more equal ground. However, the Treaty is still controversial, and crowds of hundreds of thousands of protesters besiege the National Diet, only dispersing upon Prime Minister Kishi's resignation on July 15.

1961 – A grown-up Henry von Altermann becomes head of Die Spinne. He reorganizes it into an organization codenamed “the Illuminati,” named for the 18th Century Bavarian secret society which has become the subject of numerous conspiracy theories. He marries Marie Legendre, the daughter of the Haitian serial killer

Murder Legendre, who fled to Argentina after her father's death in 1932. She soon becomes pregnant with a boy.

Von Altermann is interested in setting his son up as a TV personality in the U.S. who will feed his audience right-wing propaganda. He learns that young Jeff Altman, whose surname is similar to his own, is developing a burgeoning talent for comedy. Amused by the similarity of names, he names his son Jeff Altermann, who he will build up as a punning "alter" ego for Jeff Altman. His Illuminati helps encourage Jeff Altman's career, so that Jeff Altermann can one day step in and take his place.

Jun. 20, 1961 – President John F. Kennedy meets with Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda to discuss relations. During this summit, Kennedy promises Ikeda to treat Japan as a close ally, comparing his intended relationship with Japan to that between the U.S. and Britain. This helps end many of the lingering War-time tensions between the two countries.

1963 – Fred Silverman starts working at CBS.

The Illuminati joins forces with a cult based in Santa Mira, California known as the Brotherhood of the Thorn, led by the mysterious Conal Cochrane. The Brotherhood worships two deities, the Yellow-Robed Father and the Thousand-Brooded Mother, beings of unknown geographic origin whose ancient worship had been the subject of study by Nazi archaeologists. The Brotherhood claims to have ancestral connections to Stonehenge, which has also been connected to cult activity in rural communities in Utah. The cult follows the *Prophecy of the Thorn*, also known as the *Prophecy of the Black Spider*, which suggests that a man of ancient English blood bearing the name Thorn will become the stepparent of the Son of the Yellow-Robed Father. With aid from the Illuminati, the Brotherhood establishes bases in Haddonfield, Illinois, Trottelville, New Mexico, and Newt, Texas, as well as two schools: the Academy for Girls in Salem, Missouri, and the Minindao Institute for Wayward Youths in Little Rock, Arkansas. While operating in Haddonfield, the Brotherhood comes to believe that the *Curse of Thorn* which surrounds Stonehenge can be transferred via the *Yellow*

Sign of Thorn to a human vessel to transform them into a living symbol of terror. A young boy from Haddonfield is bestowed with this symbol. A similar vessel is selected from the area near the cult's Texas base.

It is around this time that the members of the Illuminati, including Henry von Altermann, adopt the process of ritualistically carving the Yellow Sign of Thorn into their torsos. They also wear a chain of golden hoops around their bodies which are joined to their flesh through piercings. This chain represents their binding to the tenets of Nazism and to the worship of the Yellow-Robed Father.

Sept. 7, 1968 – The Krofft Brothers begin their TV careers with the Hanna-Barbera children's series *The Banana Splits*. Over the next decade they will mastermind such iconic shows as *H.R. Pufnstuf* and *Land of the Lost*, using their talents for puppetry to create imaginative fantasy creatures.

Nov. 5, 1968 – Richard Nixon is elected President of the United States. His controversial policies will earn him much mockery, especially by young, radical leftist Baby Boomers.

Mar. 19, 1969 – Art Fisher has his first directing job on the Andy Williams special *Andy's Love Concert*.

1970 – Fred Silverman becomes VP of Programming at CBS. During his time in this role he will pioneer many successful shows, but he is also largely responsible for the “rural purge” which eliminates many shows with older-skewing audiences, such as *Green Acres*, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Petticoat Junction*, and *Hee Haw*. Of these, *Hee Haw*, along with ABC's *The Lawrence Welk Show*, will continue in syndication for over a decade. Their ongoing success following the purge draws Silverman's eye to the commercial potential of variety shows.

1971 – The effects of President Nixon's economic policies, the so-called “Nixon Shocks,” hit the global market, affecting the U.S.'s relationships with many of its allies, including Japan. During this time, the Japanese economy starts mobilizing to compete more

directly with the U.S., which will have profound consequences within the next decade.

Aug. 1, 1971 – Art Fisher starts directing his first variety show, *The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour*, for CBS. He is noted to have a strong talent for it.

1972 – Mie and Kei meet at school and become friends, starting them on the path to their music careers.

1973 – Inspired by singer and dancer Miki Fujinomiya, among others, Mie and Kei attend the Yamaha Music School in Hamamatsu to become “idols,” a specific type of celebrity in Japanese music culture. Idols function as singers, actors, hosts, models, and general entertainers; their acts and looks are generally manufactured by producers, and they are not commonly seen as true artists due to the pop nature of the music, though they often command sizable and passionate fanbases. Idol culture exists in part due to the Americanization of Japanese culture that occurred under the U.S. occupation. A population of Japanese conservatives fiercely oppose these traces of Americanization, claiming that idol culture reduces the dignity of the young women who participate in it.

Jun. 19, 1973 – The masked vigilante “Mr. A,” who has murdered several criminals in New York, is finally apprehended and exposed as Vic Sage, an NBC TV reporter. Sage appears to be psychologically disturbed, having assumed a moral absolutist philosophy which leads him to believe that all wrongdoers must be violently executed. His white, featureless mask appears to be a trophy from his first kill back in 1967, when he slew a Dr. Aristotle Rodor. It is unknown if this Dr. Rodor had anything to do with Sage’s disturbed mental state.

Oct. 2, 1973 – A group of four criminals hijack one of the 6 Lexington Avenue Local trains of the New York Subway, the Pelham 1:23, holding its passengers hostage. Three of the criminals are killed before they can get away with the money, and the last is arrested. This incident is considered to be one of the most traumatic crimes committed on the New York public transit system.

1974 – Under the guidance of the Illuminati, Jeff Altman first performs as a comedian at the Comedy Store in Hollywood. Mark Evanier starts writing for television after years of working in comic books.

May, 1974 – Mie and Kei perform in the Yamaha Challenge on Stage as the duo Cookie.

Aug. 9, 1974 – An impending impeachment stemming from the Watergate Scandal forces Richard Nixon to resign the Presidency. This embarrassing defeat deepens Nixon's status as a figure of mockery among his youthful political opponents.

Nov. 20, 1974 – In imitation of the Pelham 1:23 hostage incident, a trio of masked criminals take the wealthy passengers of a private New York rail car, the 5:22, hostage. When they are unable to extract any money, the criminals unleash a nerve agent which kills most aboard. One of the surviving perpetrators, Eddie Chiaro, wears a white mask. Said mask is nearly identical to that worn by Professor Franz, a serial killer who murdered multiple women in Italy the year prior. Some speculate a possible connection between Franz and Chiaro.

1975 – Fred Silverman becomes President of ABC.

Jan. 23, 1976 – First broadcast of *Donny & Marie*, a variety show created by Fred Silverman and the Krofft Brothers. It is a solid success for ABC, running for 78 episodes over the next three years.

Mar. 1976 – Mie and Kei appear on the NTV show *Star Tanjo!*, which lands them a music contract with Victor Entertainment.

Aug. 1976 – Mie and Kei perform again on *Star Tanjo!*, this time in their first appearance as Pink Lady. Their hit single "Pepper Keibu" debuts around the same time. For the next three years, Pink Lady will release a long sequence of hits, including "UFO," "Wanted," and "Monster." They also sponsor innumerable products and appear as guest stars on many of the major Japanese TV programs at the

time. Their tight schedule inspires the industry term “Busy as Pink Lady,” who by 1978 are estimated to be sleeping less than 45 minutes a day.

Sept. 1976 – Jeff Altman appears on *Cos*, a children’s variety show hosted by Bill Cosby, launching his long career in television.

Nov. 28, 1976 – Silverman and the Kroffts launch another variety show, *The Brady Bunch Hour*, spun off from the popular Brady Bunch franchise. The show is a disaster, being canceled after a mere nine episodes. Silverman remains adamant on creating another successful variety show in the mold of *Donny & Marie*.

1977 – The Japanese government speaks out against American businessman Robert Caine’s plans to build a nuclear power plant of unprecedented size in Israel. They express the belief that the reactor represents an escalation of the normalization of nuclear technology, which imperils the safety of the world. Caine’s own cousin, American diplomat Robert Thorn, opposed the project before his death the previous year—however, Caine goes forth seemingly unperturbed.

Aug. 12, 1977 – Harvey Dowd, a patient at the mental health ward of North Carolina State Hospital, escapes from his room and goes on a killing spree. During the spree he encounters musician Johnny Ciaro, brother of Eddie Ciaro from the New York 5:22 case. Johnny helps the police bring Harvey in. Harvey’s murders come on the heels of the Son of Sam murders, and the local press, to some criticism, dubs Harvey “Another Son of Sam.”

1978 – Fred Silverman becomes President and CEO of NBC. In Japan, Mie and Kei appear in their first theatrical film, *Pink Lady’s Big Motion Picture*, and are fictionalized in a 35-episode anime series, *The Story of Pink Lady: Angels of Splendid Fame*. Pink Lady does their first American concert in Las Vegas during the summer.

Oct. 31, 1978 – [REDACTED]

Nov. 17, 1978 – CBS airs *The Star Wars Holiday Special* to glowing reviews and 17 million viewers. George Lucas' success in taking *Star Wars* into the variety show format encourages Fred Silverman in his quest to create the next hit variety program.

Dec. 1978 – An American couple, James and Claire Hansen, encounter the mysterious ex-Nazi “Olivier” in Utah, and are forced to kill him when he threatens them. Olivier's corpse is conspicuously youthful, and it is speculated this is the original Olivier's son. The recovery of the corpse does nothing to improve understanding of Olivier's true identity.

Spring 1979 – Pink Lady appears as a special guest on a Leif Erickson TV special in the U.S. promoting their new American tour, where they debut their phonetically sung English single “Kiss in the Dark.” “Kiss” ends up charting No. 37 on *Billboard's* Top 40. At this point Mie and Kei do not speak any English, but their talents at phonetically memorizing scripted English dialogue convinces many that they can.

In Washington, economists begin to express worry that the Nixon-spurred Japanese industry is overtaking the U.S. on the international trade market, especially in the fields of electronics and automobiles. Politicians start to pressure President Jimmy Carter to impose economic restrictions on Japan to preserve America's status in the global economy. Carter's perceived weakness in the face of Japanese industrialization will be one of several points that costs him reelection to Ronald Reagan the following year.

Aug. 1979 – Fred Silverman sees a CBS Walter Cronkite report on Pink Lady's U.S. tour, and, reminded of Ed Sullivan booking the Beatles in 1964 after seeing them in a Cronkite broadcast, he pitches a Pink Lady variety show to the Krofft Brothers. They agree to work on the project, hiring Mark Evanier as head writer and Art Fisher as director due to experience with both. It is determined that the show will need an American host to sell it to audiences, and Jeff Altman is selected because of his variety experience on *Cos.*

Thus is *Pink Lady and Jeff* born into the world.

Sept. 1979 – Feb. 1980 – Production commences for the first six episode season of *Pink Lady and Jeff*. During this time, numerous issues arise. The biggest of these is that it soon transpires that the members of Pink Lady do not speak or understand English, relying on a lengthy translation process to communicate. There are disputes over the title as well—Pink Lady’s agents wish for the show to only be titled *Pink Lady*, while Jeff Altman believes his name ought to be included too. This argument creates a divide between the two host parties, who are already strongly irritated by the language barrier. On top of this, it becomes difficult to book guest stars without expending large sums of cash, as many in the industry are skeptical of the project’s potential effect on their careers. Under both budget constraints and producer interference, the scripts assigned to Mark Evanier’s writing team struggle, often relying on jokes highlighting the supposedly bizarre or alien nature of Japanese culture or painting Japanese people as naive or primitive. There are also repetitive references to Richard Nixon, who had been out of office for over five years at the time of writing. All the same, Evanier does his best to come up with memorable characters for sketches, such as Art Nuvo, a lowbrow seller of high art, and a seemingly unnamed Faith Healer who parodies televangelists. These characters are still major staples of the show today, having appeared in almost every episode of the series. The crew brings young comedian Jim Varney in as a regular guest star.

Despite the difficulties of the production, the six episodes are taped successfully and are set to air within weeks.

Mar. 1, 1980 – The first episode of *Pink Lady and Jeff* airs in the United States. Pink Lady sings (or rather lip syncs to their prior recordings of) “Boogie Wonderland,” “Stop! In the Name of Love,” “You’ve Got a Friend,” “Don’t Stop,” and “Knock on Wood.” The episode features guest stars Blondie, Sherman Hemsley, and Bert Parks, and introduces Art Nuvo, the Faith Healer, and Ed Nakamoto as the Sumo. Most importantly, it also introduces the show’s ending gimmick, wherein Mie and Kei strip down to bikinis and force or entice Jeff to climb into a hot tub with them. This joke

will be used as the closing gag of the show for every episode for the next 45 years.

The first show is a modest success for NBC. Critics find the gags to be fairly entertaining, and praise the performance of Pink Lady, who does well in the face of not knowing any English. One of Jeff's quips, "You're just attracted to my sexy round eyes," is condemned as racist, but most reviews don't raise the issue of race. The viewership numbers run entirely as expected, but no better. The reception to the show is almost perfectly lukewarm, and Fred Silverman decides to let fate decide on the second episode.

Pink Lady expresses some chagrin with the program to their agents, as they feel like the studio's effort to make them develop separate stage personas clashes with the core of their act in Japan, which was built on perfect synchronization. But by this point, the agents are already realizing they have precious little power in negotiating amenities with NBC.

Mar. 14, 1980 – *Pink Lady and Jeff's* second episode airs on NBC. The girls sing "Ease Down on the Road," and join two of their guest stars for their other numbers: Donny Osmond is their third for "Heaven Knows," "We Are Family," and "42nd Street," while Teddy Pendergrass leads them in "On Broadway." There is an effort to theme the music of each episode after a major American city (last episode was Hollywood), but this won't last long. This episode also features Larry Hagman, as well as Sid Caesar in his first of many turns as Mie and Kei's samurai father. Once again, this episode receives some criticism for its racism, especially Sid Caesar's performance as a Japanese man, but the show also starts to find its audience. A reviewer for the *Los Angeles Dispatch* writes of the series: "Disco ain't dead! Two girls from Japan bring slumping genre back from the brink." The show's unique renditions of numerous pop and disco hits attracts a disco-loving audience, and some who had previously been apathetic to the genre start getting involved with it. However, slacking viewership for this second episode leads Silverman to make the decision to put the show to the ultimate test. He shifts the show into 9 PM on Fridays, the dreaded "Friday night death slot," to see if it has the power to bounce back.

Mar. 21-Apr. 11, 1980 – The remaining four episodes of *Pink Lady and Jeff* Season 1 air. In spite of the death slot placement, the show gains rapid popularity as the weeks go on. The guest stars, who include such personas as Jerry Lewis, Bobby Vinton, and Roy Orbison, attract audiences, but it is Pink Lady's music and Jeff Altman's comedy that makes the show come together. For many, the hot tub gag is at the heart of this. It soon becomes a nationwide pastime to speculate on how Pink Lady will get Jeff into the tub next time. Letters start to flood into the NBC offices—the people have spoken, and they want more *Pink Lady and Jeff*. Fred Silverman, Pink Lady, and Jeff Altman pop champagne over the success of the next big variety TV hit.

It will be a long year before a second season, twice as long as the first, goes to air. During this time, hot tubs and hot tub-related merchandise experience heightened sales, and many comedians over the summer conspicuously call upon Richard Nixon impressions in their performances. Naturally, Pink Lady's albums also experience a spike in sales. A new media sensation has begun.

Mar. 1-May 15, 1981 – The second season of *Pink Lady and Jeff* airs to high acclaim. Three of the twelve episodes reach the #3 top ratings for their air week, and a fourth reaches #4. Guest stars include a returning Sid Caesar, as well as John Ritter, Frank Sinatra, Carrie Fisher, Johnny Ciario, and many more. Art Nuvo and the Faith Healer remain every-episode staples, as do the hot tub and Richard Nixon gags. By the end of the season, Sid Caesar's "Papa Samurai" is now a regular on the show, though Caesar does portray other characters for some episodes. Most critics acknowledge that the show is here to stay, and sure enough, Silverman renews the program for two more seasons. There is some tension behind the scenes as Mie and Kei start to feel trapped by the show, which they did not expect would last for so long. They are also starting to realize, as their English improves, that Japanese people like them are the butts of many jokes.

Summer 1981 – Congress calls on President Ronald Reagan to impose economic restrictions on Japan due to their growing

dominance of the car markets. Before any laws are signed, Japan voluntarily restricts its own automotive exports, in an effort to soothe American concerns.

Mar. 1, 1982 – Season 3 of *Pink Lady and Jeff* launches. Mie and Kei have been comforted somewhat by the fact that an album collecting their songs from Seasons 1 and 2 has charted at #1 in the U.S., making them a great deal of money. By this point on the show, they are allowed to sing in Japanese just as often as they do in English, though they are still expected to deliver their sketch lines in English.

By season's end, regular guest star Jim Varney and writer John Cherry III decide to part from the show to develop their character of Ernest P. Worrell, who originated in a series of commercials in 1980 and was refined in sketches on *Pink Lady and Jeff*.

Mar. 15, 1982 – Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, while on a visit to the U.S., catches the third episode of *Pink Lady and Jeff* Season 3 on TV. He is outraged by the show's sense of humor, saying in a press conference: "This show is an insult to the dignity of Japan and to two of its most famous citizens, who I very much doubt are fully aware of the low quality of the material they are delivering." Critics in Japan and America alike call for the show's cancellation, but they are drowned out by the show's growing fandom.

Apr. 6, 1982 – *Pink Lady and Jeff* runs a sketch where Sid Caesar plays "Prime Minister Zero Susucky," who gives a flatulence-ridden speech parodying Zenko Suzuki's condemnation of the show. The episode with the Susucky sketch is a smash hit with audiences, and Caesar will reprise Susucky several more times, long after the real Suzuki is out of office.

Oct. 3, 1982 – The FCC catches Silver Shamrock, a costume company owned by cult leader Conal Cochrane, broadcasting experimental subliminal messages over the airwaves. The purpose of these transmissions is unknown, but Shamrock's access to broadcast equipment is suspended pending further investigation.

May, 1983 – During the airing of *Pink Lady and Jeff's* fourth season, the NBC receives a complaint from former President Richard Nixon, asking if it might be possible to make fewer jokes about him in future shows. In response, the writers plan a big season finale based entirely around Nixon humor, which they dub the Richard Nixon Musical Spectacular. The finale is the most successful episode of the show thus far, and for future seasons the show will double down on its Nixon jokes. Indeed, it is remarked by many critics that the new Nixon jokes are likely what put the show's fourth season at #1 in the ratings—a spot the show will hang onto for many years.

Feb. 22, 1984 – Murder of Art Fisher by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Mar. 1985 – Following the so-called “Horror House on Highway 5” serial killings, wherein several men and women are butchered by a man in a Richard Nixon mask, Jeff Altman agrees to at least temporarily retire all Nixon humor from the show. Several public figures call for an investigation as to whether the Nixon jokes on *Pink Lady and Jeff* influenced the Horror House slayings.

Police determine that the Horror House Killer was associated with two Nazis who escaped Germany with the aid of Die Spinne. Dr. Frederick Bartholomew was a scientist who worked on the development of the V-2 rocket. Dr. Werner Mabuse was one of Hitler's close political advisors. When Dr. Mabuse's body is found it is significantly younger than it ought to be, like that of Olivier from years prior. Several tomes of occult lore are found in Mabuse's possession, including *De Vermis Mysteriis*, the *Necronomicon Ex-Mortis*, and the *Abobilyon of Dharvus Khru*.

Congress votes unanimously to significantly reduce the number of Japanese electronics imported to the U.S., in an effort to maintain U.S. supremacy in the global economy. However, it is becoming clear that Japan's technological prowess is greatly ahead of that of the U.S.

Around this time, the Nakatomi Corporation begins to build a Plaza in Los Angeles to serve as their American headquarters. Nakatomi is

one of the major electronic companies cited by Congress as a threat to the American economy. Protesters surround the construction site, trying to prevent Nakatomi from building, but they are stopped by the police.

Apr. 2, 1985 – Jeff Altermann, under the name Jeff Altmann, makes his first public appearance as a comedian in LA.

Apr. 20, 1985 – After ten years on the air, NBC cancels *Saturday Night Live* to make room for the new Saturday night placement of *Pink Lady and Jeff*.

Apr. 22, 1986 – Assassination of Richard Nixon by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated. The ongoing investigation into whether *Pink Lady and Jeff* inspired the Horror House on Highway 5 murders shifts its focus to the possibility of a connection between the show and the former President's assassination.

Feb. 1987 – Following the controversies relating to the Richard Nixon jokes on *Pink Lady and Jeff*, Jeff Altman is dismissed from his position as host prior to taping the show's eighth season. He is replaced by comedian Jeff Altmann, aka Jeff Altermann, who has had plastic surgery to perfectly resemble Jeff Altman. The show does not acknowledge the change in host, and most viewers do not notice it. But enough people do comment on it that Fred Silverman offers the following statement, which is buried deep in an interview with *The New Yorker*: "Think of it as like *Bewitched*. One day, you have Dick York, the next, you've got Dick Sargent. Same type of character, just a different Dick. It's the same with Altman and Altmann—the character on the show is the same. It's just a different Dick."

Mar. 1987 – *Pink Lady and Jeff* showcases a handful of animated comedy shorts created by cartoonist Matt Groening about a suburban family called the Simpsons.

Apr. 11, 1987 – Murder of Jeff Altman by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated. Media coverage of his death is minimal.

May 22, 1987 – The first theatrical Ernest P. Worrell movie starring Jim Varney, *Ernest Goes to Camp*, sees release to wild acclaim.

Mar. 13, 1988 – Lt. Mitchell Sterne of the LAPD, who was involved in the 1978 events surrounding the infamous surviving Nazi “Olivier,” breaks into NBC headquarters with a gun, claiming that the people behind *Pink Lady and Jeff* conspired to murder Jeff Altman. Taking a secretary as a hostage, he makes his way to Fred Silverman’s office, and then takes Silverman hostage as well. For four hours, police attempt to talk Sterne down, and eventually secure Silverman and the secretary’s release by promising to investigate the production of *Pink Lady and Jeff*. However, shortly after Sterne releases the hostages, screams are heard from Silverman’s office. Police find Sterne’s severely mutilated corpse on top of Silverman’s desk. The perpetrators of his murder remain unknown.

With Sterne dead, the police see no need to fulfill their promise to investigate *Pink Lady and Jeff*.

Nov. 11, 1988 – Release of *Ernest Saves Christmas*, the second and final Ernest film, to high praise.

Dec. 24, 1988 – A group of terrorists led by Hans Gruber take the attendees of a Christmas party at Nakatomi Plaza hostage in order to steal over \$600 million from its vault. Their plot is thwarted by NYPD officer John McClane. Several American pundits condone the actions of Gruber, claiming that anything that weakens Nakatomi and its negative influence on the American economy is praiseworthy. These reactions are condemned by Tokyo.

Dec. 27, 1988 – A criminal gang led by Christine “Big Mama” Durant copies the Hans Gruber group by taking the workers of the Sun Meadow Wines Company in LA hostage. Sun Meadow Wines is owned by the Japanese brewing and distilling company Suntory. The terrorists are eventually defeated by Casey Kennedy, the wife of one of the hostages, and “Machine Gun” Joe Slater, a mercenary. It is feared by many that a string of these copycat attacks on Japanese companies will break out, but this largely fails to materialize.

Jan. 7, 1989 – Death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. At around the same time, the Japanese economic boom which has lasted throughout the '80s starts to slowly wind down.

Jan. 30, 1989 – Murder of Fred Silverman by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Feb. 10, 1989 – Murder of Jim Varney by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Feb. 12, 1989 – Murder of Sid Caesar by unidentified parties. Body found compressed into the 4x4x6" mailbox of his Beverly Hills home.

Mar. 1, 1989 – First episode of *Pink Lady and Jeff* Season 10. Jeff Altmann portrays Richard Nixon in a skit mocking Japan's condemnation of the American media's praise of Hans Gruber. At the end of the skit, a recreated Nakatomi Plaza blows up with "only a few hundred" Japanese businessmen stated to be inside.

Mar. 22, 1989 – Episode 4, Season 10 of *Pink Lady and Jeff*. Jeff Altmann performs a skit mocking the death of Emperor Hirohito.

May 1, 1989 – Murder of Mark Evanier by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

May 8, 1989 – Murder of John Cherry by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Aug. 1, 1989 – Murder of Miki Fujinomiya by unidentified parties. Body not found.

Nov. 25, 1989 – Murder of Sid and Marty Krofft by unidentified parties. Bodies found severely mutilated.

Dec. 19, 1989 – Murder of Ed Nakamoto by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Dec. 20, 1989 – Murder of Pink Lady's five representative agents—Hayashida Isamu, Yamamura Keiji, Iha Emi, Morioka Chiharu, and Naito Amaya—by unidentified parties. Bodies found severely mutilated.

Dec. 20, 1989 – Matt Groening airs “Some Enchanted Evening,” a pilot for a *Pink Lady and Jeff* spinoff based on his animated Simpsons family. It flops in the ratings and the series is not picked up.

Dec. 31, 1989 – Murder of Matt Groening by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated.

Jan. 1990 – Pink Lady makes their last public appearance outside of the *Pink Lady and Jeff* TV program when they are guests on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. After nearly fifteen years of touring Japan and America to promote their franchise, Mie and Kei become recluses, with the majority of their activities besides those pertaining to the show being largely unknown.

Mar. 1990 – *Pink Lady and Jeff* celebrates its ten year anniversary by introducing their new producer, Mickey Singer, and their new head writer, Oliver Shelley. Jeff Altmann is known to have a fond public friendship with both.

May 3, 1990 – Jeff Altmann performs a sketch on the show making fun of the recent Japanese economic downturn. At the end of the sketch he tells the audience to do their part by boycotting Japanese brands and products. Within days, the U.S.'s import of Japanese trade goods stagnates. Japan starts to voice the complaint that the U.S. has economically sabotaged their trade processes for several years now. The last few episodes of *Pink Lady and Jeff's* eleventh season double down on the rhetoric of the May 3 episode, with Jeff Altmann concluding the season by telling audiences that America is fighting a financial war with Japan.

Sept. 1990 – In an effort to reaffirm their friendship with the U.S., Japan sends thousands of guns to U.S. military forces fighting the

Gulf War. However, in what will become known as the BB Incident, a squad of the 110th Infantry codenamed “Baghdad Bastards” films themselves blowing up a large shipment of Japanese munitions. The squad’s leader, Sgt. Miller “The Fixer” Franklin, then records himself saying: “No Yamaha, no Toyota, no Mitsubishi. J.A. says ban Japan.” “J.A.” is understood to mean Jeff Altmann. Japan is outraged by this disrespect and demands criminal consequences for the Bastards—a request which President George H.W. Bush denies, in a move entirely unexpected by both American political parties.

The anger the BB Incident inspires throughout Japan serves to re-energize the Japanese economy, mirroring the spurring that arose from the Nixon Shocks twenty years prior. Now the average Japanese worker considers it a personal matter to out-compete the Americans. What Japanese economists feared was rapidly becoming a “Lost Decade” is now shaping up to be a final push for Japan to become the most prosperous nation on Earth.

Spring 1991 – The twelfth season of *Pink Lady and Jeff* slips from the #1 spot in the ratings for the first time due to a sudden media controversy surrounding a supposed whistleblower report insinuating that NBC punishes employees who attempt to teach Mie and Kei English. Years of working on the show have allowed the duo to expand their English skills significantly, but they are still largely unable to comprehend the language. In response to the controversy, NBC President Mickey Singer releases the following written statement from Pink Lady: “The accusations that NBC denies us the chance to learn English are entirely baseless. We have become very fluent in English over the last eleven years in this country, as evidenced by our heightened ability to carry ourselves with ease on *Pink Lady and Jeff*. There would be no reason to deny us the chance to learn the language which most of our colleagues speak—as a matter of fact, to hinder us in this way would be to hinder all operations of the show. We thank NBC for the rewarding opportunity to work in this wonderful country.”

It is a commonly known fact that *Pink Lady and Jeff* fans consider the women’s struggles with English to be part of the show’s appeal, a detail which NBC is almost certainly aware of. Singer and other

NBC executives do indeed enforce a rule that prohibits Mie and Kei from learning English, so as to continue to drive numbers among fans.

Jul. 1991 – Mickey Singer announces that comedian Jerry Seinfeld will become a regular guest star on *Pink Lady and Jeff*. Seinfeld had been looking for a break into a regular TV job for several years following his failed attempt to pitch a sitcom based loosely on his life as a stand-up comic.

Jan. 27, 1992 – Controversial writer Peter J. Smith, formerly of the LAPD, claims to have uncovered a conspiracy by the Nakatomi Corporation to cover up the murder of several prominent American businessmen who threatened a Japanese plot to drive down the value of the dollar. According to Smith, the Nakatomi hostage situation of 1988 was a false flag operation meant to make Nakatomi “critic-proof.” A small faction of American conservatives believe in this theory and attempt to persuade Congress to not only investigate the Nakatomi incident further but to enforce greater economic sanctions against Japan. Smith’s followers give him credit on the basis that his great-grandfather was famed criminologist Sir Denis Nayland Smith, whose conspiracy theories about Asia’s intended dominance of the West are still read today by right-wing extremists.

Mar. 1, 1992 – Peter J. Smith is invited as a guest star on the premiere episode of *Pink Lady and Jeff*, where he is allowed to give a short monologue about the Nakatomi Assassin Theory. The Theory starts to become more popular, with even a few members of Congress casually expressing their own belief that Nakatomi murdered Americans to suppress the American economy.

Aug. 1992 – Congress passes a bipartisan bill that forces the Nakatomi Corporation to cease their operations on American soil. Americans who benefit from Nakatomi products and services have petitioned and lobbied against the bill since its genesis three months prior, but to no avail. Nakatomi’s American branch files a lawsuit declaring that their constitutional rights have been violated. The case will be tied up in the court system for several years.

Jun. 1993 – A coalition made up of rock and roll musicians and fans launches an organized protest in various U.S. cities against the overabundance of disco albums and the marginalization of rock music. This coalition soon learns they represent an extreme minority, as turnout is slight. Most financial experts predict that disco will remain the top-selling music genre for the foreseeable future. The tens of millions of disco fans that have sprung up in the last decade most commonly attest their interest in the genre to *Pink Lady and Jeff*.

Aug. 1993 – NTV launches a new variety show called *Ken and Huey Lewis Give You the News* (ケンとヒューイ・ルイスがニュースを伝えます, Ken to Hyūi Ruisu Ga Nyūsu o Tsutaemasu), hosted by Japanese comedian Ken Shimura and American band Huey Lewis and the News. The show is clearly intended as a parallel to *Pink Lady and Jeff*, and shares a nearly identical format, complete with jokes about the supposed backwardness of Americans and how the show's American band speaks poor Japanese. American fans of *Pink Lady and Jeff* are not amused.

May 2-4 1994 – Chaos breaks out when the LA shipping docks are besieged by thousands of *Pink Lady and Jeff* fans who have caught wind that a Japanese freighter, the *Same-maru*, will be bringing VHS tapes of *Ken and Huey Lewis* to the U.S. For three days, police attempt to remove the fans from the *Same*, but they are unable to stop the mob from damaging much of the ship and killing three sailors. By the time police reach the ship's inner holds, they find that some of the raiders have turned the sailors' corpses into an altar to Jeff Altmann. Those who are worshipping it resist arrest and the police are forced to shoot six of them. All of the VHS tapes aboard, which included a number of popular anime series as well as *Ken and Huey Lewis*, are broken open and hurled into the sea, leaving the city to spend thousands trying to clean the waterlogged tapes out of the water. Many Japanese media companies announce that they will refuse to export tapes to the U.S. due to the threat of possible violence.

Aug. 16, 1994 – Desecration of the grave of Richard Nixon at the Richard Nixon Library and Museum in Yorba Linda. National Guardsmen are posted at the grave after its restoration to prevent further incidents.

Feb. 1995 – Many of the *Pink Lady and Jeff* fans who attacked the *Same-maru* the previous year hold protests in LA against the import of Japanese video game products, specifically the upcoming Nintendo 64 video game console. Peter J. Smith applauds the protests on his new radio show, *The Truth Hour*, saying that to win the economic war against Japan, the U.S. must divest from Japanese interests entirely, echoing the sentiments of Miller Franklin years prior.

Mar. 20, 1995 – The Japanese Aum Shinrikyo cult releases sarin gas on the Tokyo Metro during rush hour, killing thirteen people and hospitalizing over fifty, some of whom later die. An article from veteran American reporter Jack “Flashgun” Casey suggests that despite Aum Shinrikyo’s beliefs consisting of a syncretization of Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian Millennialist philosophies, its higher-ranking members in fact secretly worship the Son of the Yellow-Robed Father, who they conflate with their version of Jesus Christ. He points out that the cult specifically chose to use sarin gas, which is now known to be the nerve agent used by Eddie Chiaro to kill train passengers during the 5:22 hostage crisis of 1974. Eddie Chiaro was speculated to have some connection to the murderous Professor Franz, who wore a similar white mask as Chiaro during his killings. Casey discloses that Franz was in fact a member of the Brotherhood of the Thorn, and therefore, by way of Chiaro, he suspects that Aum Shinrikyo is an adaptation or splinter or puppet of that cult. Casey indicates that the Brotherhood of the Thorn was not previously known to be active in Italy; he intends to dig deeper into the matter.

Apr. 2, 1995 – Jeff Altmann performs a sketch on *Pink Lady and Jeff* mocking the victims of the Aum Shinrikyo sarin attack.

Jul. 23, 1995 – The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously sides with the government in the trial of *Nakatomi Corporation v. United States of*

America. “Nakatomi’s First Amendment rights were not violated in this instance,” says Chief Justice Rehnquist, “because the United States cannot be reasonably expected to grant constitutional rights to parties who seek to financially undermine America’s global economic interests.”

Spring 1996 – Japan passes a series of strict restrictions and tariffs on U.S. imports. Many American businesses protest these implementations, and some American companies, like McDonald’s, remove their stores and offices from Japan completely. Many Japanese corporations also voluntarily leave the United States, in the wake of the *Nakatomi* decision and the *Same-maru* incident.

Mar. 14, 1996 – Flashgun Casey publishes an article putting forth his theory that there is a connection between the Brotherhood of the Thorn and the murder of Jeff Altman in 1987. He postulates that the Brotherhood was also behind the death of Lt. Sterne during the 1988 NBC hostage situation. Furthermore, he expresses belief that both Aristotle Rodor (who apparently influenced Vic Sage/Mr. A) and Harvey Dowd were former members of the Brotherhood.

Jun. 21, 1996 – In a phone call with President Bob Dole, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto implies that Japan is looking to terminate the Security Treaty of 1960. Most Japanese citizens at this point wish for the removal of American military bases from Japanese soil and stand firmly opposed to supporting any American military efforts. Dole’s argument with Hashimoto leads to the scheduling of a summit to discuss amending the Treaty in the following summer.

Aug. 1, 1996 – NBC announces that *Pink Lady and Jeff* will now run forty weeks out of fifty-two every year going forward. By now, the show has featured such guest stars as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sharon Stone, Freddie Harris, and Madonna, and episodes occupy a three-hour time slot.

In one of the first sketches of the extended season, Jeff Altmann performs an instance of a by-now recurring bit called “So Simple a Nixon Could Do It.” In the sketch, Altmann as Nixon says that

even a “Watergate-burgling, tape-erasing dummy” would know that the Security Treaty with Japan should be terminated.

Aug. 16, 1996 – Second desecration of Richard Nixon’s grave in Yorba Linda. The two National Guardsmen posted to watch it are found dead, their bodies severely mutilated.

The Richard Nixon Library and Museum is closed and surrounded by a cement wall, which is patrolled by a squad of Guardsmen. The Nixon Foundation plans to find a way to once more allow visitors in at a future date.

Jul. 30, 1997 – To the protest of nearly all the nations of the world, the United States and Japan formally dissolve the Security Treaty of 1960, ending their military alliance and dealing a major blow to the security and stability of the United Nations. British Prime Minister John Major cautions that unless the U.S. and Japan settle their “television squabbles,” it will be impossible to take either of them seriously as modern, developed countries. Major is criticized by many in the UK due to the fact that *Pink Lady and Jeff* has been attaining great popularity in Britain as well.

Aug. 16, 1997 – Third desecration of Richard Nixon’s grave in Yorba Linda. During an apparent assault on the gravesite, six National Guardsmen are killed, and the Richard Nixon Library and Museum, along with all of the historical documents and artifacts contained within, are burned to the ground. What can be recovered of Nixon’s remains are interred in a classified location in Washington DC. The Richard Nixon Foundation’s core members are left traumatized by the repeat assaults on the former President’s grave, and one by one they slowly leave until the organization is effectively disbanded.

Jul. 13, 1999 – Flashgun Casey publishes an interview with physician Bill Harford, who claims to have been threatened by the Brotherhood of the Thorn the previous year. In the interview, Harford describes rituals similar to those practiced by a nameless cult active in early 20th Century Vienna, whose existence was documented by Dr. Hans Fridolin in 1926. This Vienna cult is

known to have survived into the late 1960s at least, and seems to have branched out to Venice by the 1980s as well. The members of this cult not only worship the Son of the Yellow-Robed Father, but they do so by donning the Pallid Mask, a white, expressionless variant of a classical theater mask. If Dr. Harford's account is to be believed, they also practice human sacrifice. Casey suggests that the cult's activity in Venice explains how Professor Franz was able to join their ranks. He wore the Pallid Mask during his murders, as did Eddie Ciario during the 5:22 incident. Casey proclaims his intent to seek out other instances of people adopting the Pallid Mask.

Mar. 1, 2000 – *Pink Lady and Jeff* celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a blowout premiere event. NBC expends more than \$10 million per episode during the 2000 season, which is capped off by a huge reprise of the Richard Nixon Musical Spectacular.

Aug. 18, 2000 – President Bob Dole announces in a DC press conference that the United States government has exhumed the remains of Richard Nixon from their classified point of burial and given them a burial at sea in international Atlantic waters. The reasons behind this controversial decision are never clarified by the President.

Summer, 2001 – It is noted by various journalists, including Flashgun Casey, that the U.S. has been surreptitiously constructing a large number of new battleships for their Pacific fleet. The purpose of these ships has not been clarified by the Pentagon in any public news source.

Sept. 11, 2001 – The terrorist organization al-Qaeda hijacks four airplanes to launch suicide attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon. Nearly 3,000 people are killed from these attacks.

Oct. 1, 2001 – Guest comedians on *Ken and Huey Lewis Give You the News* mock the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Dec. 17, 2001 – Murder of Flashgun Casey by unidentified parties. Body found severely mutilated. He leaves behind a document written in cipher, which is leaked to the Internet.

Jun. 11, 2002 – Fox attempts to launch a new variety show to compete with *Pink Lady and Jeff*—hardly the first of such efforts, but one of the more highly-budgeted. The show, called *American Idol*, brings a competitive element to the showcase of comedy and musical acts. The attempt to make variety acts compete with each other fails to go over with American audiences, and *Idol* is canceled after its first season.

Feb. 3, 2003 – U.S. Navy ships are first spotted “monitoring” certain Japanese trade ships, following them over great distances while ignoring radio hails. Speculation breaks out that the U.S. is interested in establishing a Pacific blockade of some kind, but for what reason, none can say.

Mar. 8, 2003 – Jeff Altmann hosts the second episode of Season 24 of *Pink Lady and Jeff* in front of what appears to be a military map of the waters east of Japan. The map shows a fleet of roughly twenty-four battleships being directed into formation near Iwo Jima.

Oct. 13, 2003 – j.thieme, a user on the forums of the supernatural investigation site Dark World, cracks the Flashgun Casey cryptogram. The deciphered text reads as follows:

*“An apple tree did whisper this to me...
Arboreal guardian of eternity.*

In ancient times their alchemy crafted the SKOOK.

SKOOK. Noun. - A word from the language of the Chinook people of the Pacific Northwest meaning a monster, devil, or evil spirit. Not to be confused with adjective “skookum” meaning big, strong, ultimate, monstrous, awesome. Namesake of the Skookum Valley in Price County, WI. Name use in that instance is erroneous, as the entities in Price County are best described as BAKAAK.

BAKAAK. Noun. - A monster in Ojibwe folklore, a flying skeletal demon who slaughters warriors and feasts on their livers. Erroneously referred to as SKOOK among the white communities of present-day Wisconsin. Cousin to the SKOOK, along with the SEYYBRAE [sic] and the GREBNIDU [sic].

In the ancient times, there were no animals. The woods and hills were silent and still. The skies had no birds and no insects. There was grass, and foliage, and trees, but aside from men no other beasts lived. Men ate only the fruit of the land and knew not the taste of meat or fish.

The race of men was afflicted by terrible loneliness. And so one day, in the dark, they chose to breed something—a race of companions. This would be the first of their monstrosities, the first of their perverse violations of timespace, but hardly the last. The product of their alchemy was a ferocious warrior monster that carried in its body the attributes of all the future creatures of the land, sky, and sea.

They had *broken* the walls of the world with their ancient magic, these elder wizards, and they let something in from outside to mutate and shift their creation, to bring it to ultimate fruition.

Thus was born the BAKAAK—the second animal of Earth.

Upon glimpsing it, its creators screamed like they had never known fear before, and fled into the uncaring night.

From its eggs, large and plentiful, came myriad spawn. Things with fur that crawled on all fours, scaly things that had no legs, crawling worms and slithering slugs, apes and porcine sows, feathered and sharp-beaked birds, the many-armed stars and the armless fish of the deep, and a thousand million others. All of them came from the eggs of the BAKAAK.

The BAKAAK was an Ark of Chaos, a fracturing of the world's previous order. A massive shift in consciousness and conception. Soon no one would remember the times when men walked without

beasts by their side. The beasts, for their part, forgot their foul ancestry and became innocent. But some animals who walk this world still remember who they once were—these are the animals we never see, who we have no names for, who watch us from the secret places of the Earth.

All the beasts of the world, from the bluebird at your window to the dog lapping water at your feet, were born from this ancient violation, this shattering of the world in the name of the *King in Yellow*, who whispers in the dreams of sorcerers.

Are we, too, born of the winged thing that devours livers?

DREAD HASTUR DREADS ONLY THE ROSE CHILD.

AND SO HE WILL SLAY THE ROSE LADY IN THIS WORLD.

YOU ARE OUT OF TIME.”

The meaning of this cryptogram remains unknown, but it appears as though Mr. Casey succumbed to a form of religious mania near the end of his long life.

Jan. 6, 2004 – President George W. Bush announces that the U.S. Navy will be enforcing a security perimeter around the eastern coast of the Japan archipelago, in what will be called Operation: Pink Lady. “This mission will help to prevent incidents of violence between the U.S. and Japan, and will aid in America’s greater goal of fighting terrorism around the world,” Bush explains.

Japan is furious, feeling as though the U.S. is accusing them of the kind of terrorism which American troops are now presently fighting in Iraq. “This Operation: Pink Lady will not be accepted idly by the Japanese government,” says Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. “The JSDF will ensure that these ships do not, in their zealous pursuit of terrorists, attack or falsely charge Japanese citizens. We shall have our own protective boundary. I implore the United Nations to sanction the U.S. for their irresponsible acts in the Pacific so that this ridiculous blockade may be disbanded as soon as

possible.” The UN chooses to move cautiously as they investigate the situation further.

Sept. 2004 – Anomalies occur along the Japanese Enshu Railway Line.


2005-2016 – Operation: Pink Lady is underway. The U.S. Navy works to construct a network of ships, buoys, and comm stations along the American West Coast, while a massive fleet of blockade ships is dispatched directly to the Japan archipelago. True to Prime Minister Koizumi’s word, the JSDF sends ships to parallel the American vessels—each American vessel is met by an equal number of JSDF ships. The two lines of ships will, by the end of this eleven-year period, create a 2,000-mile long barrier known as the Pink Lady Line.

2006 – Economists note that an estimated 30% of America’s GDP is comprised of the production and sale of disco records and hot tubs. Roughly half of all middle-class Americans have upwards of three hot tubs in their homes by this point. This percentage is only expected to grow as demand for these goods maintains a sharp upward climb.

Mar. 1, 2007 – The opening episode to this season of *Pink Lady and Jeff* introduces a new recurring sketch, a spoof of “nerd culture” called “The Big Bang Theory.” In addition to perpetuating racism against the Japanese, the series also marginalizes Indian people and people with autism, and promotes a casually sexist set of values. It is one of the most successful sketches on *Pink Lady and Jeff*, eventually leading to a spinoff show in 2009.

Oct. 31, 2008 – The *Pink Lady and Jeff Halloween Special* airs.





Aug. 10, 2010 – Inspired by the rousing success of the first season of *The Big Bang Theory* the year prior, *Pink Lady and Jeff* launches another spinoff called *Young Pink Lady and Jeff*, which depicts the (fictional) high school adventures of Mie, Kei, and Jeff Altmann. Like *The Big Bang Theory* and its parent show, *Young Pink Lady and Jeff* will prove majorly successful.

Mar. 11, 2011 – A 9.1 undersea earthquake occurs in the Tohoku Region, devastating many parts of Japan and unleashing a massive tsunami. The tsunami damages the works at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, resulting in the release of radioactive contaminants. Though no one dies as a direct result of radiation exposure, the fear and panic that spreads among those evacuating the region kills over 2,000. Many Japanese people possess a deep fear of radiation due to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings—a fear which has been reinforced over the decades by such events as the Chernobyl Disaster, the Three-Mile Island Incident, and the Caine Reactor Crisis of 1980 that led to the evacuation of the entire state of Israel.

Apr. 20, 2011 – Jeff Altmann performs a sketch on *Pink Lady and Jeff* mocking the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Hours later, President John McCain signs a bill approving funding to step up the completion of the Pink Lady Line from 2020 to 2016.

Aug. 31, 2012 – A young woman named Jenny Weaver reveals on national news that a group of people in the town of Cold Rock, Washington has been using a local urban legend of a supernatural being called “the Tall Man” to cover up the theft of children from low-income households to give away to rich families for adoption. The people behind this do this to “save” the children from the poverty of the town. A team of federal investigators are dispatched to Cold Rock to confirm this.

Sept. 16, 2012 – The federal investigation of Cold Rock, Washington in the wake of Jenny Weaver’s revelation of child trafficking reveals that the traffickers were in fact members of the

Brotherhood of the Thorn, who ritualistically sacrificed the children they stole to “the Tall Man.” Upon seeking out Weaver for an additional interview, the agents assigned to the case find that there is no such person as Jenny Weaver. The woman who was interviewed as Weaver was initially identified as Mary Kolburn, but when it was discovered that Kolburn had passed away in 2005, this was deemed impossible. The identity of “Jenny Weaver” remains unknown.

On websites like Dark World, paranormal investigators theorize a connection between the Tall Man of the Cold Rock cult and a like-named urban-legendary being associated with Morningside Cemetery in Oregon. That Tall Man has commonly been connected to the “Men in Black” archetype, leading some to suspect that the government could have been involved somehow in the Cold Rock Murders. It is notable at this point that around 80% of federal arts grants are gifted to NBC for the purpose of producing *Pink Lady and Jeff*.

Jul. 16, 2014 – *The Pink Lady and Jeff 3D Movie* is released in theaters.

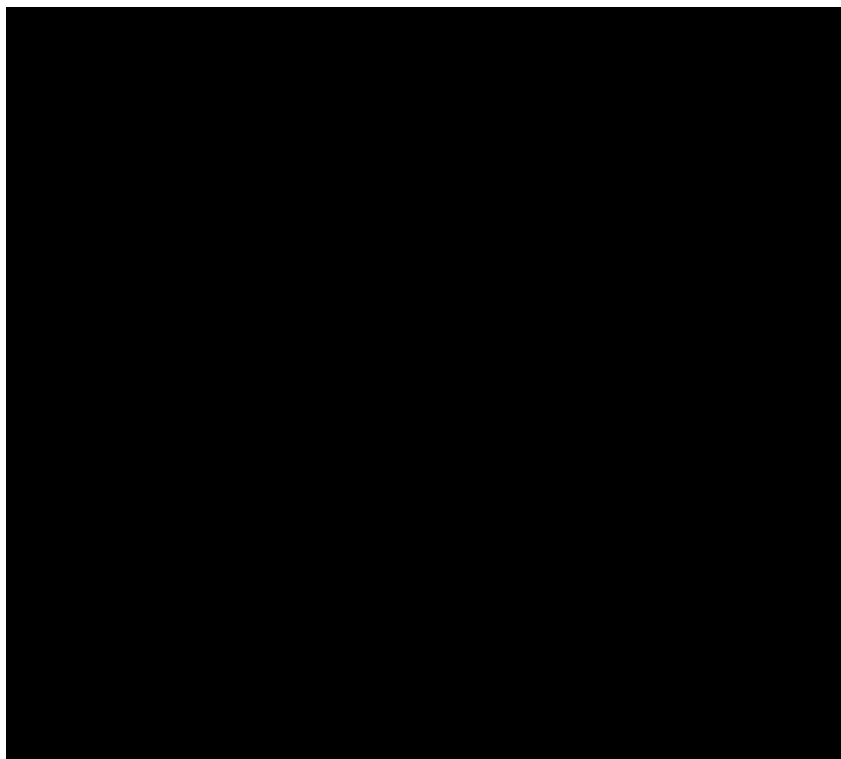
Jul. 4, 2015 – Theatrical release of *The Young Pink Lady and Jeff 3DD Movie*.

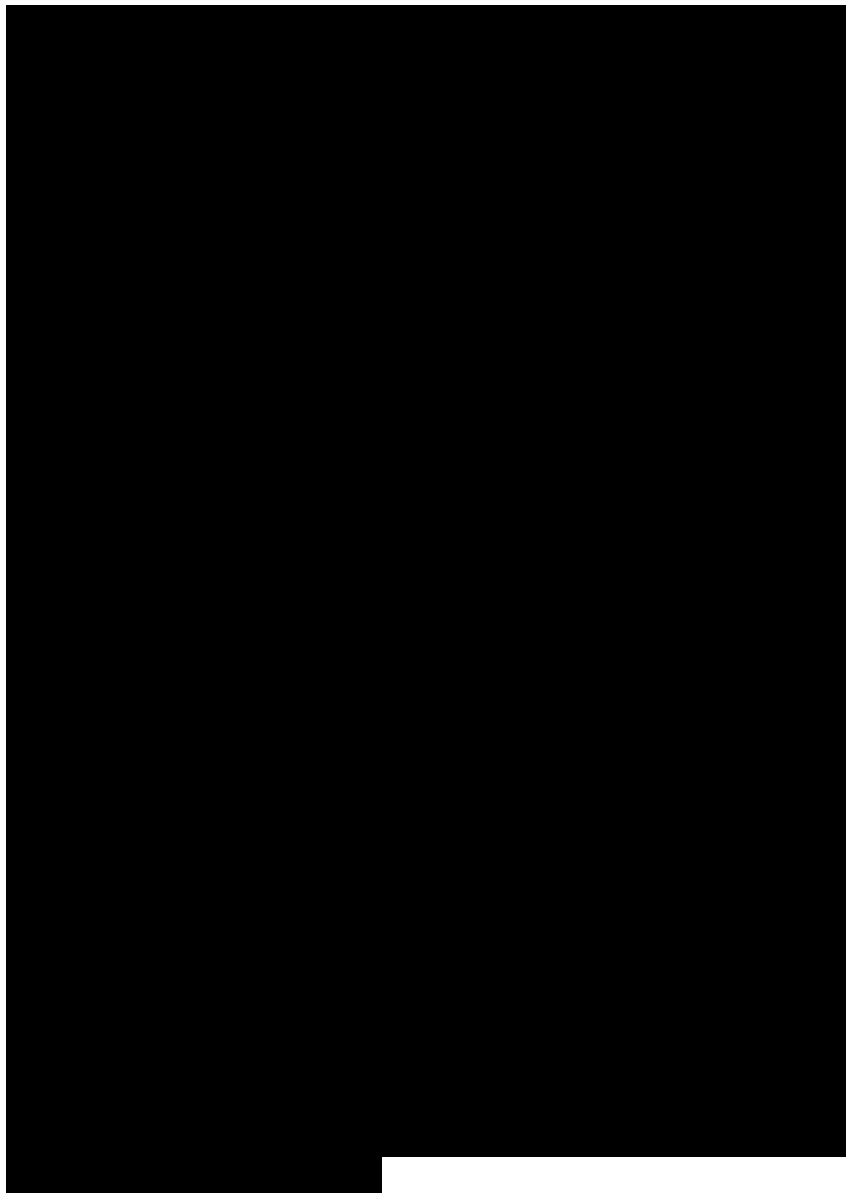
Dec. 5, 2016 – Completion of the Pink Lady Line. Nearly 150 American ships now blockade the Eastern coast of Japan, being kept from the shoreline at a distance of roughly fifty miles by an equal number of ships of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. The UN has continuously condemned the U.S.’s actions in establishing the Line, as they view such as a total betrayal of a formerly close ally and an example of reckless, needless warmongering. Most news sources reporting on the Line report the atmosphere as “bristling,” with naked hostility existing on both sides.

Sept. 11, 2017 – The USS *George Bush*, one of the ships assigned to the Pink Lady Line, receives a transmission from the JDS *Towada* mocking the sixteenth anniversary of 9/11. A riot breaks out aboard the *George Bush* that quickly turns to mutiny when the Captain refuses to attack the *Towada*. While the Captain and senior crew

attempt to suppress the mutiny, a sailor, William Gilligan, jumps overboard and swims to the *Towada*. He shoots and kills four officers aboard the ship, including the second mate, before he is taken down by machine-gun fire. All vessels on the Pink Lady Line are placed on red alert, and eight vessels—the USS *George Bush*, *Wild Frontier*, *Bonaventure*, and *Herbert Hoover*, and the JDS *Towada*, *Hamada*, *Kanto*, and *Tashimoto*—train their weapons on each other for a nail-biting twenty-six hours. Eventually both fleets are given stand-down orders from their respective governments, but now, the world is fully aware that the old hostilities from 1945 are starting to reassert themselves—and that has broad ramifications for what peace the UN has been able to establish in the post-War world.

Mar. 2018 – NBC uses *Pink Lady and Jeff* to pilot another spinoff series—in this case, a revival of the 1965 comedy series *My Mother the Car*, featuring Jeff Altmann as Captain Manzini. The pilot is a massive success, like *The Big Bang Theory* before it.





Aug. 2024 – The USS *New York* attacks the Japanese fleet near Nishinoshima in the Ogasawara islands, severely damaging the JDS *Hyuiruisu* before falling under fire from multiple Japanese vessels, as well as its support vessel, the USS *Pink Lady*. The *Pink Lady*'s aid in the sinking of the *New York* mitigates the latter vessel's decision to

attack in the eyes of the Japanese government, but this act cannot be negotiated away by diplomats. Many Americans praise the actions of the *New York* and condemn those of the *Pink Lady*. The rest of the world finds it hard to echo these sentiments, as they are left awaiting a war declaration from one or both sides.

Feb. 2025 – NBC completes the shift of its primary headquarters from LA to New York. During the demolition of the former studio, a pair of human skeletons are found sealed in the cement foundation of the building. It is believed that the bodies were deposited there during a minor reconstruction performed in the early '90s. The bones are analyzed genetically and determined to belong to two women of Japanese descent, who were approximately 30-35 years of age at the time of their death.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

There is only one viable solution to the ongoing crisis, as agreed upon by our psychology team: we must use scare tactics to neutralize both sides. Only the use of extreme terror will serve to pacify the tensions along the Pink Lady Line. The communications we've established with Dr. Daisuke Yamane and other key scientists within the Japanese government will allow us to enact this strategy.

Our one and only recommendation is to use the bioweapon Gamma 693 (codenamed "Blood of Tsiang") on select U.S. Navy vessels, followed by a "leak" of footage documenting the results of such to all adjacent ships, American and Japanese alike. Both sides will be told (with the help of Dr. Yamane) that their own side developed but lost control of the weapon. Ideally, the panic this causes will result in both sides retreating to assess the situation—during which diplomacy may be employed to settle things once and for all.

Gamma 693 is a sarin-derived gaseous neurotoxic compound. It causes instant death and putrefaction in vertebrate organisms. Upon exposure to deceased vertebrate tissue, it causes gradual reanimation and reconstitution of said tissue, though the body remains rotten. After achieving full reanimation, entities revived by Gamma 693 retain little memory of their previous lives, and are consumed by an unceasing bloodlust and hunger for human flesh. Nearly everyone who has survived a personal encounter with one of these zombies has experienced severe mental and emotional trauma. The relentlessly vicious nature of the ghouls is inherently overwhelming even for experienced military veterans.

As I mentioned at the outset, this solution is hardly morally adequate, and besides that, there is the possibility that Dr. Yamane and his team have been deceiving us, given the attitudes most Japanese people have towards Americans (and vice versa). Unfortunately, we must place our trust in him and in the process developed by the psych team. Desperate needs call for desperate measures. But no one reading this needs reminding of that.

If you ask me, I think old Jack Casey was right.

I think we're out of time.

Ex Apocalypsi,

-Hormidas Peath